

### REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of August 6, 2001.

Claims 6-10 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, in accordance with the restriction requirement.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Examiner is respectfully referred to the preliminary amendment filed with the application, and further to the Appendix of the present application which recites Claim 1. The language of amended Claim 1 is not that the teeth of the wheel are parallel to the direction of the cutting axis, but rather that the vent apertures are oriented in a direction which is not parallel to the first direction (the first direction being the direction of the line of vent apertures). It is seen that Figure 1, the prior art, shows the vent apertures being oriented in a direction which is parallel to (or colinear with) the direction of the line of vent apertures. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection over 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is overcome.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Cetrelli reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,284,228) in view of the allegedly admitted prior

art. The Cetrelli reference does not disclose the cutter and the anvil means of Claim 1. The Cetrelli reference merely discloses grooves 7 which are "indentations or depressions" (see col. 3, line 53). The grooves are "placed on the surface of the laminate" (see col. 4, line 62). Moreover, "the material strips stay intact and thus ensures complete tightness of the sealed area, the ducts 7 do not bring about any disadvantage for a point of view of tightness" (see col. 4, lines 32-35). A typical depth of the grooves is given as 0.1 mm. for a 0.5 mm. thick packing material. Indeed, the formation of holes in place of the ducts or grooves appears to be taught as disadvantageous, virtually taught away from, in col. 4, lines 42-51 of the Cetrelli reference. Moreover, there is nothing in the art which would teach or suggest combining the ribbed roller of col. 3 (last two lines) of the Cetrelli reference with the structure of Figure 1 of the present application.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is overcome.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are patentable over the cited references.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted

that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejections of the claims, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald E. Brown", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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## APPENDIX

Please cancel Claims 6-10, without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (twice amended) A method for providing vent apertures to a web component of a plastic bag, comprising the steps of:

providing a cutter which cuts a line of vent apertures along a first direction, said vent apertures being oriented in a second direction which is not parallel to said first direction;

providing an anvil means against which said cutter bears, thereby creating a nip; and

drawing the web component through said nip formed between said cutter and said anvil means thereby forming said line of vent apertures in the web component.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)